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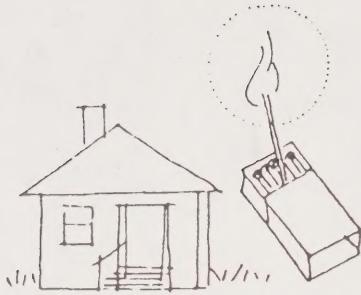
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HOME FIRE SAFETY



Canada



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Home Fire Safety

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HOME FIRE SAFETY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Accidental fire can be deadly. Fires cause more injuries, deaths and property losses than any other single incident on Indian reserves.

As a member of your community, it is up to you to know how to prevent fires, and know what to do in case one starts.

This booklet points out many fire and safety hazards which might be found around a home. It suggests what you can do to eliminate or reduce them, and what to do if a house fire does start.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHOULD READ THIS BOOKLET AND CHECK THE FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME NOW. IT WILL BE TOO LATE ONCE A FIRE BREAKS OUT.

2.0 WHAT TO DO IF FIRE STRIKES



A – Get everyone out, fast, but don't panic.



Feel the door before opening it. If it is hot, brace it with your shoulder and open it slowly.



If you get caught in a smoke-filled hallway, stairway or room, get down and crawl out. The air is better near the floor. If you can, cover your face with a damp cloth.



If you are trapped on a second or third floor, do not jump unless it is a last resort. Instead, seal the door as well as you can and wait for rescue.



B – Do not go back in to try to save your valuables. Even if you can not see flames, going back into a burning building is very dangerous because the heat and fumes can kill you.

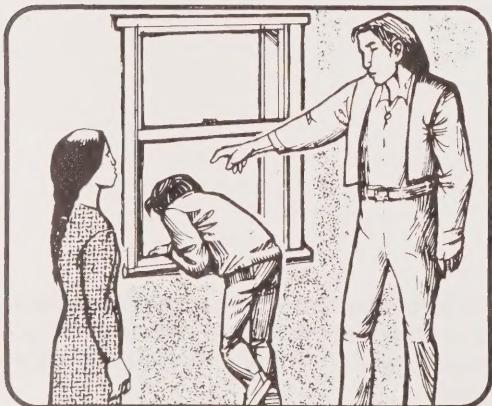


C – Call the fire department from a neighbour's house. Don't stay in a burning building to phone. The fire and heat may have already burned out the phone line.

3.0 BE READY BEFORE FIRE STRIKES



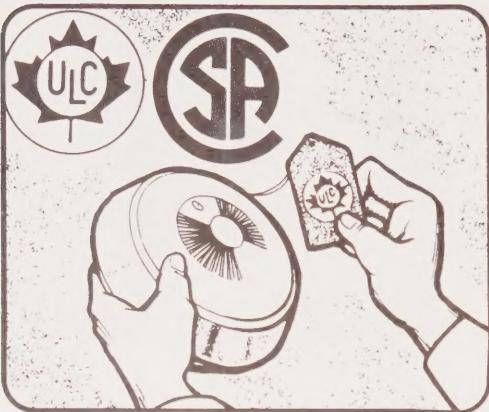
Most fires strike at night when people are asleep. It can be terrifying. The normal escape route can become blocked, the stairway and halls may be filled with lung-scorching heat, poisonous fumes, and blinding choking smoke.



PLANNING an escape route can mean the difference between life and death.



Install only smoke detectors bearing the ULC label. The best locations are at the top of basement stairs and in halls leading to bedrooms. Smoke detectors must be checked at least once every six months.



NOTE: CSA or ULC approval means that the items of equipment have been tested and approved for safe use. CSA refers to Canadian Standards Association and ULC refers to Underwriters Laboratories of Canada.



Have at least one 5 pound ULC approved fire extinguisher stored near the door in the kitchen. Your best choice is a multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher. You and your family must know how to use it. Make sure it is checked at least once every six months.



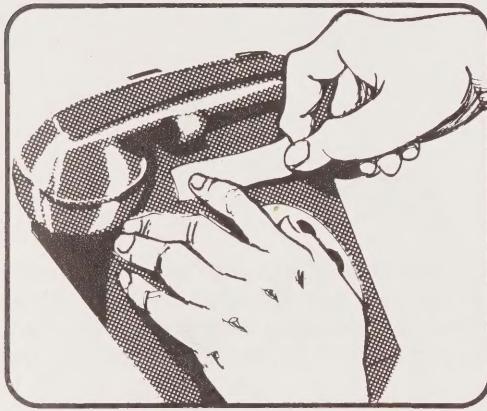
A garden hose kept connected in a convenient place can be used on small fires involving ordinary materials such as wood, fabrics or paper (never electrical or grease fires).



Keep flashlights, fire extinguishers, garden hoses, escape ladders and first-aid kits in their proper places to avoid panic searches during emergencies.

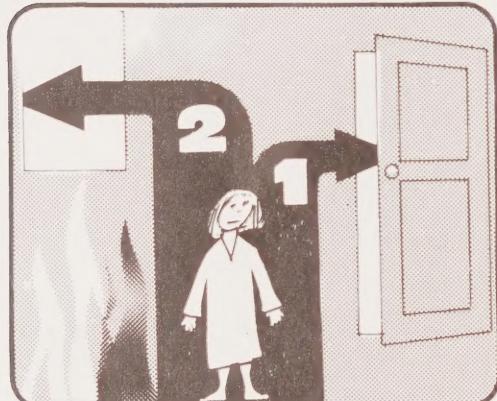


Leave interior doors in the house closed but unlocked-especially doors leading to children's rooms.



Post the fire department's number on the telephone.

4.0 PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTES



ABOVE ALL have an escape plan and make sure everyone, particularly the younger children, know what to do. This is especially important in the dark when many fires occur. This plan should include the following:

Everyone should have two ways to get out. Consider roofs or attached garages as possible escape routes or have escape ladders for upper floors.

Tell everyone to meet at a **prearranged** meeting spot outside. That way, it is easy to make sure everyone is out.



Make it easy to get out of windows by placing furniture or boxes under them if it is necessary. Tell children not to take personal belongings or valuables because they slow you down.



Tell everyone to leave the house as soon as they hear the smoke alarm, and meet immediately at the prearranged meeting spot. Tell them to never go back into a burning house.



When everyone is familiar with the escape plan practice once every six months.

5.0 MAKE SURE BABYSITTERS KNOW WHAT TO DO



Make babysitters familiar with your family's fire plan. Emphasize that their first duty is to get the children out of the house. Provide them with written instructions including:



1/ Location of the children's rooms and the escape routes.



- 2/ What to do if smoke or gas is smelled.
- 3/ How to call the fire department.
- 4/ How to reach the parents.

6.0 CUT THE RISK OF ACCIDENTAL FIRE



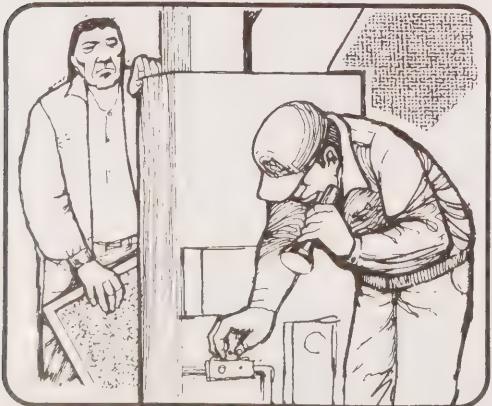
6.1 STOVES AND HEATING EQUIPMENT

INSTALLING, MOVING

Follow manufacturers' instructions or have a tradesman who is familiar with fire safety standards do the work.



Make sure your gas heater or stove is connected permanently and rigidly to metal piping. Have shut off valves installed on rigid metal pipes — not on rubber or flexible tubing.



CLEANING, MAINTENANCE

Have your furnace well maintained at all times and if possible, have it inspected once a year by a qualified tradesman.



Chimneys should be built by an experienced builder who follows the building code used in your area. For pre-fabricated chimneys use only CSA and ULC approved products and ensure they are equipped with a spark arrestor. Clean each chimney once a year.



Use CSA and ULC approved stoves and check the pipes, pipe collars and flues in the spring and fall. Repair or replace defective parts immediately.



Don't use open lights, candles or matches in checking for gas leaks. — call your gas company.



SAFETY

Install screens in front of open fireplaces to prevent sparks or embers from falling onto the floor.



Wait for ashes to cool down and put them in metal containers.



Don't let grease build up on the stove — while cooking keep butter, grease or oil containers away from stove.

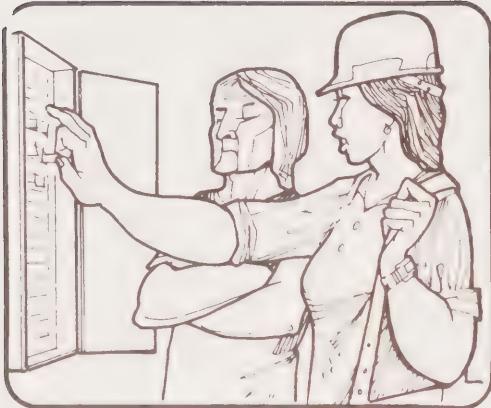


Smother grease fires in pans by using tight lids, a fire extinguisher or spreading salt or baking soda over the flames. **Never** carry a burning pan and **never** throw water on a grease or oil fire.

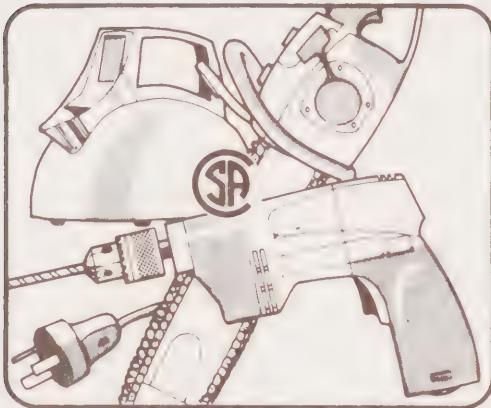


Don't throw flour, uncooked cereals, dust from a vacuum cleaner or dust pan into a stove — dust is explosive.

6.2 ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Use an electrician when changing or adding to existing wiring, outlets, and installing new electrical equipment or appliances.



Buy and use only CSA approved electric appliances, tools, extension cords and materials.



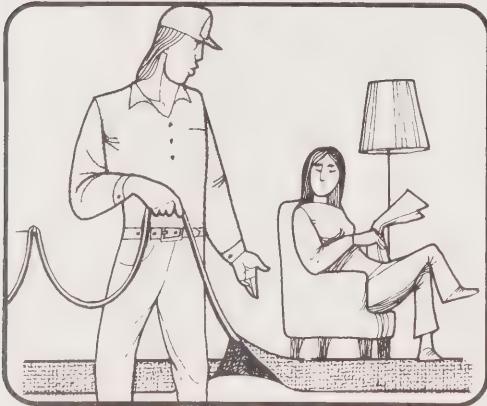
Fuses are the electrical system's safety valve. Don't replace a fuse with one of a higher rating and don't use substitutes like coins or aluminum foil.



If a fuse blows, the circuit is being overloaded. Turn off some of the appliances connected to it. If the fuse continues to blow, there might be a short circuit (two bare wires touching). Stop replacing the fuses and call an electrician.



Don't overload circuits by using "octopus" connections.



Don't string electric cords or wires around rooms, under rugs or over nails.



Check lamp or appliance cords, for breaks or wear. Do not roll beds or heavy furniture over them. Replace any worn cords immediately.



Always make sure that electric irons, portable heaters or other appliances are off before leaving the house.

6.3 PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN



Never leave young children at home alone.



Keep all flammable liquids, matches, lighters, candles, cigarettes, and pipes out of children's reach. Be especially careful that toddlers cannot reach these materials.



Teach your children not to play near hot pans, plates, kettles, fireplaces, stoves or heaters.



6.4 SMOKING HABITS

Do not smoke or strike matches in garages, closets or near flammable liquids. Never smoke in bed.



Put out matches, cigarettes, and any burning materials carefully and don't throw them into waste baskets, garbage pails or wood-boxes.



Never smoke when handling a baby or a pet.



6.5 FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

Store flammable liquids (gasoline, kerosene, oil-based paint, paint thinner) only in small quantities. Use ULC approved containers – usually a heavy metal can with vapour tight lid and screened pouring spout. Keep these containers in the garage or storage shed outside the house.



Turn off kerosene or gasoline stoves, lamps, heaters or tools and let them cool down before refilling.



Never use flammable liquids to start or rekindle wood or coal stove fires.



Keep oil-based paints and paint thinner cans tightly shut. Try to use only non-flammable liquids to clean paint brushes.



If you have to use flammable liquids for cleaning, do it outside and preferably in a metal container resting on the ground.



6.6 HOUSEKEEPING

Don't let leaves, rubbish or papers pile up behind shrubs, near the house or on the roof. Clean them up and put them in trash cans.



Remove matches or lighters from clothes to be stored or dried in a dryer.



After use, dispose of or put oily rags or cloths used for furniture polishing, painting or waxing in tightly closed metal containers. This prevents fires caused by spontaneous combustion.



Keep paper, curtains, drapes, hanging towels and laundry away from ashtrays, kerosene lamps, gas or candle flames, stoves, stovepipes or heaters.



At Christmas time take extra care with Christmas trees and decorations. Use only CSA approved electric light decorations which are in good condition. Never use candles and do not allow smoking near the tree, decorations and wrappings. Get rid of gift wrappings right away by putting them in a metal-covered trash can.

7 FIGHTING A FIRE



Remember, your most important concern in any fire is to first get the family out of the burning house and secondly call the fire department.

The only time you should try to fight a fire by yourself is when it is small and there is an escape route always available. Leave the fire as soon as you feel there is any danger.

You must know how to operate your fire extinguisher. It is also important to know water should never be used on electric or flammable liquid fires.

